



# Department for Transport

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Our Ref: TWA/2/2/137  
Your Ref: NJE/161148.0001

14 March 2016

Dear Sirs,

## **TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006: REQUEST FOR SCREENING DECISION AND SCOPING OPINION**

### **PROPOSED EXTENSION OF BLACKPOOL TRAMWAY FROM NORTH PEIR TO BLACKPOOL NORTH RAILWAY STATION**

1. I refer to your letter of 29 January 2016 in which you requested on behalf of your clients, Blackpool Council:
  - a. a screening decision under rule 7(4) of the above Rules as to whether an environmental impact assessment is required of the works comprised in the above proposed extension of the Blackpool Tramway; and, if so,
  - b. a scoping opinion under rule 8(1) of the above Rules on the information to be provided in an environmental statement.
2. In considering the request for a screening decision we have taken into account the selection criteria referred to in rule 7(11) of the above Rules and the "Technical Note: Preliminary Environmental Assessment" which accompanied the request. We have also consulted Blackpool Council (in its role as local planning authority), Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.
3. We consider that the construction of the works described in your request would be a project of a type mentioned in Annex II to the Council Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended by Council Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC. We consider also that, on the basis of the available information, the proposed extension of the Blackpool Tramway would not be likely to have a significant impacts on the environment in construction or operation, including in relation to noise, air quality, the historic environment, ecology and nature conservation, and the water environment.

### **Screening decision**

4. For the reasons given in paragraph 3 above, in accordance with rule 7(13) of the above Rules, the Secretary of State's screening decision is that **an environmental**

**impact assessment is not required** in relation to the proposals described in the screening request.

### **Scoping opinion**

5. Having concluded that an environmental impact assessment is not required in relation to the proposed extension of the Blackpool Tramway, it is unnecessary to provide a scoping opinion. We note, however, that your clients intend to provide with the proposed application for a Transport and Works Act Order various documents required by other legislation or policy, namely a Transport Assessment, an Air Quality Assessment Report, a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment Report and a Flood Risk Assessment. We agree that, on the basis of the preliminary environmental assessment, it would be appropriate to provide those documents. We have not at this stage identified any other specific information that may be needed to inform the decision-making process.

Yours faithfully,

**Martin Woods**